

July 30, 2003

Regarding: 02-278

To Whom It May Concern:

Allow me to briefly introduce myself. My name is David Stone and I am the Executive Director of the Alabama Hospice Organization. Alabama Hospice Organization is a small, membership based association working to ensure that quality end-of-life and palliative care is available to all the residents of the great state of Alabama.

I am greatly concerned regarding what I am hearing are the implications of your current decisions and interpretations regarding the use of facsimile (fax) communications. As a small organization, the use of the fax machine has become a vital communications tool we use to connect with our constituents. I fear that the FCC's decision to remove the "established business relationship" qualification from the fax regulations is absolutely bad for associations such as ours and the larger business community, forcing associations and other companies to obtain the written consent of their own members, clients and industry partners before transmitting any fax that could be interpreted as commercial in nature

In fact, the association community has already raised numerous concerns about the new regulations that remain a subject of speculation, including exactly which transmissions the FCC would interpret as commercial in nature, whether written consent to a national association would extend to chapters or affiliate faxes, and whether a written consent form would expire with membership, for example.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Stone, Executive Director
Alabama Hospice Organization